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COBRA COMMANDER
image
#04

ENERGON UNIVERSE

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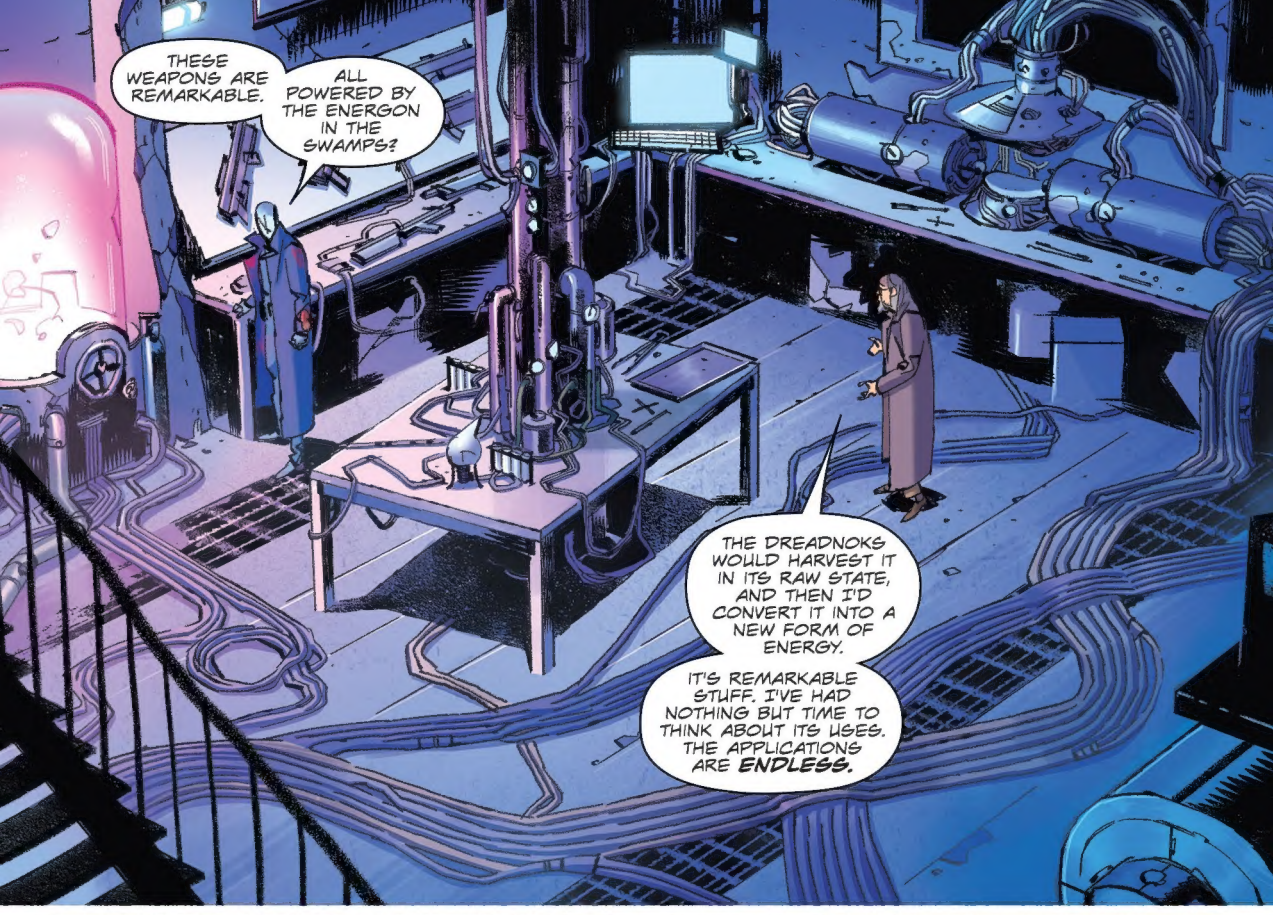
THIS IS IT?
YEAH... PLEASE...
OPEN IT.
THEN YOU'LL LET ME GO?
PERHAPS.
IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO STAY HERE...
VRSH
I'M WORKING AS FAST AS I CAN...
PLEASE...
I CAN'T TAKE YOU HURTING ME AGAIN.
WAIT... YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM...

ARE YOU HERE TO SAVE ME?
YES.
THANK... THANK YOU.
THOSE BRUTES TOOK ME. THOSE DREADNOKS KIDNAPPED ME AND THREW ME DOWN HERE TO WORK.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEM NOW.
THEY ARE BEING...

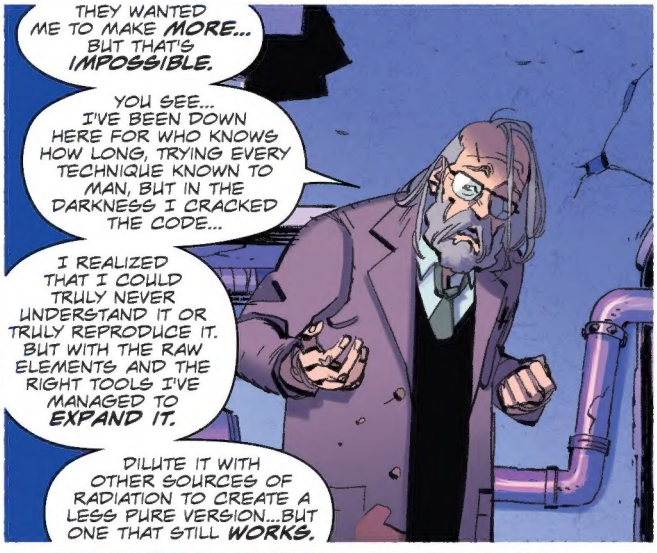
"...DEALT WITH."
SLASH
DAMN, HE GOT TORCH.
WE CAN'T TAKE THIS BEASTIE DOWN, BUT WE CAN GET SOME DISTANCE.
I GOT A PLAN. YOU'VE SEEN HOW EXPLOSIVE THE JUICE IS. WE CAN BLOW IT UP AND USE IT AS COVER...
...OR STAY HERE AND END UP LIKE THE REST OF OUR CLAN.
OH YEAH, THEN HOW'RE YA GONNA GET PAST THE MAN WITH WINGS, GUV'NOR?
I'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING, BUZZER.
YOU BASTARD!
WHOOSH!

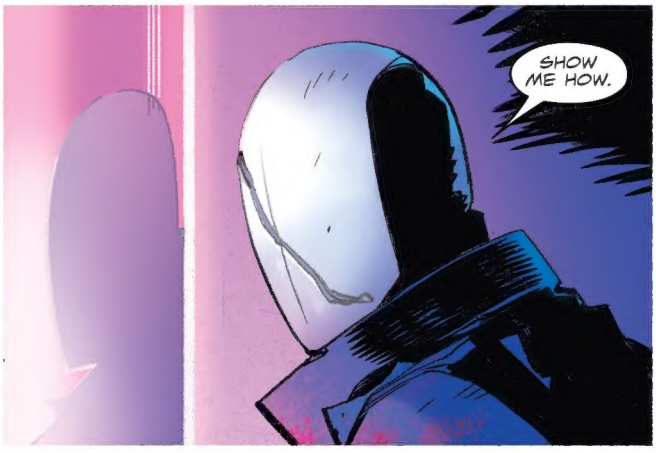
RAK KRAK
AHHHH!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SISTER?!
THIS IS OUR ONLY SHOT!
WE CAN'T LEAVE OUR FAMILY BEHIND!

NOT THE KIND OF QUALITY I LIKE TO PUT INTO THE WORLD, BUT IT'LL DO THE TRICK.
THIS STUFF ALWAYS SEEMED A BIT VOLATILE ANYWAY...
AARGGHHH!
PANG
ZZZ
BOOM!
TORCH, BUZZER-- GET UP!
THAT'S ONLY GONNA BUY US A FEW SECS...
ENOUGH TOYING AROUND WITH THESE HUMANS. THE COMMANDER SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON THE MISSION.
"YOU'VE BEEN BUSY."


THESE WEAPONS ARE REMARKABLE.
ALL POWERED BY THE ENERGON IN THE SWAMPS?
THE DREADNOKS WOULD HARVEST IT IN ITS RAW STATE, AND THEN I'D CONVERT IT INTO A NEW FORM OF ENERGY.
IT'S REMARKABLE STUFF. I'VE HAD NOTHING BUT TIME TO THINK ABOUT ITS USES. THE APPLICATIONS ARE ENDLESS.

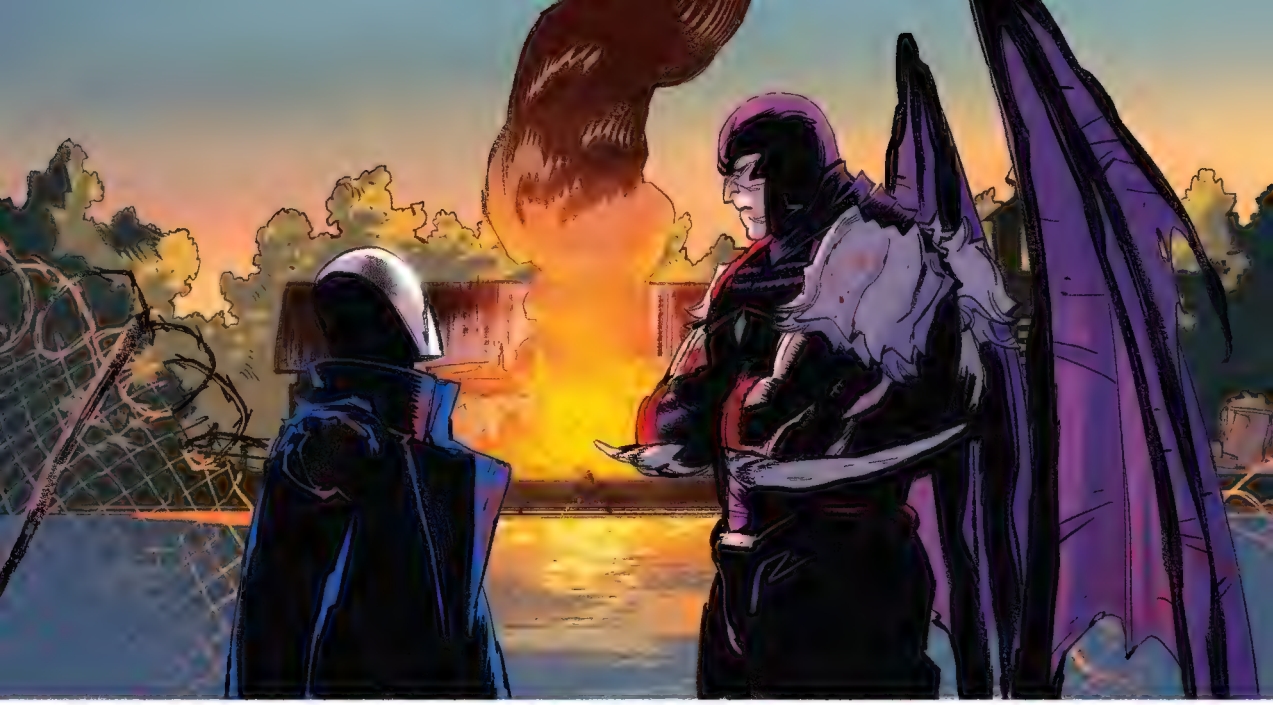
INDEED.
BUT... THIS IS MORE THAN COULD HAVE POSSIBLY BEEN IN THE SWAMPS.


THEY WANTED ME TO MAKE MORE... BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU SEE... I'VE BEEN DOWN HERE FOR WHO KNOWS HOW LONG, TRYING EVERY TECHNIQUE KNOWN TO MAN, BUT IN THE DARKNESS I CRACKED THE CODE...
I REALIZED THAT I COULD TRULY NEVER UNDERSTAND IT OR TRULY REPRODUCE IT. BUT WITH THE RAW ELEMENTS AND THE RIGHT TOOLS I'VE MANAGED TO EXPAND IT.
DILUTE IT WITH OTHER SOURCES OF RADIATION TO CREATE A LESS PURE VERSION...BUT ONE THAT STILL WORKS.


SHOW ME HOW.

IT DIDN'T JUST POWER THEM...IT SUPERCHARGED THEM INTO A FORCE UNLIKE ANYTHING ON EARTH...
LORD GOLOBULUS WILL BE PLEASED.
WE NEED TO GET YOU A MUCH BIGGER LAB.
BUT...

SUCCESS?
VERY MUCH SO.
THESE FOOLS HAD NO IDEA WHAT THEY REALLY POSSESSED. TOO SHORT-SIGHTED.
THEY HAVE A SCIENTIST TRAPPED DOWN THERE WHO HAS DONE MUCH OF THE WORK FOR US.
NOW THAT WE HAVE THE SECRETS OF THE ENERGON AND A MEANS TO REPRODUCE IT, WE MUST BUILD WEAPONS.
AND THIS ONE HERE IS GOING TO HELP US.
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US THE NAMES OF ALL YOUR BUYERS. EVERY SINGLE PERSON YOU SELL TO WILL NOW DEAL WITH ME.
I WILL BRING THE GREATEST ARMY THIS WORLD HAS EVER SEEN TO COBRA-LA.
COME, NEMESIS.
WE WILL BEGIN OUR TRIUMPHANT JOURNEY BACK.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IMBECILE?
MOVE.

KRAK
MY DUTY.
YOUR DUTY WAS TO PROTECT ME.
TO HELP ME FINISH MY MISSION.
THIS IS BETWEEN YOU TWO!
GET HIM! WE NEED HIM!
YOUR MISSION IS OVER.
I NO LONGER FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS, COMMANDER.
WHAT ARE YOU...?
I SEE.
YOU WERE NEVER HERE TO HELP ME WITH MY MISSION.
YOU'RE HERE TO KILL ME.

GOLOBULUS BETRAYS ME?!
THIS IS NOT RIGHT!
I AM LOYAL TO COBRA-LA!
YOU'RE PATHETIC.

GOLOBULUS NEVER FELL FOR YOUR MANIPULATIONS, YOU LITTLE SNAKE
EVEN WITH THAT MASK ON, HE COULD SEE YOUR FORKED TONGUE
MY WORLD IS PURE, AND YOU WERE GOING TO TARNISH IT WITH YOUR BLASPHEMOUS METAL
AN OUTSIDER WOULD NEVER ASCEND IN COBRAVILLA
NOW THAT WE HAVE THAT SCIENTIST IN THE HOLE
WE DON'T NEED YOU

BZZZZZ
IF YOU ARE TRULY LOYAL TO COBRA-LA, THEN YOU WILL TAKE PRIDE IN KNOWING YOU DIED FOR IT.
RRIPP!
AHHHH!!

JUST TAKE ME BACK... I CAN EXPLAIN...
TAKE ME HOME...
IT WAS
SLASH!
NEVER--
TRASH
YOUR HOME!
WHOOSH
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
EEEEEEE

THOOM!
I WILL NOT JUST LAY DOWN AND DIE...
THEN RUN, HUMAN.
RUN.

I WILL NOT RUN FROM YOU OR ANYONE.
GRR
YOU THINK I DID NOT CONSIDER THIS?
THAT I DID NOT HAVE A SECRET WEAPON OF MY OWN?
THE ENERGON IS MINE.

WAR

=UFF=
=UFF=
=UFF=
=UFF=
CAN'T... CAN'T KEEP--
=UK=
DAMN, YOUR FACE LOOKS LIKE A BOWL OF PUKE, BROTHER...
AH, WHAT THE HELL?!
I NEED WEAPONS.
WHO DID YOU PLAN TO SELL THE ENERGON TO?
IT'S THIS BLOKE...HE HAS A WHOLE COMPANY...
BIGGEST IN THE WORLD, MATE. HIS NAME IS...

"DESTRO."
M.A.R.S.
INDUSTRIES
TO BE CONTINUED...

DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

[redacted]

GIJOE@SKYBOUND.COM

It's all coming together… For the past four months or so, we're been weaving threads between Duke and Cobra Commander's parallel journeys, and now Destro (first seen in DUKE #1) is about to meet Cobra Commander. And that's when things get REALLY fun.

This is Sean—still coming down from this issue's EPIC throwdown. Josh—was that everything you dream it would be?

From the beginning of planning this book, I knew this fight was coming. That Cobra Commander would be betrayed by Cobra-La. And it totally lived up to what I had in my head! I loved it. And it's another big step on his road to COBRA…

Cobra Command,

I remember getting GI Joe ARAH #1 4 decades ago on a trip into town on a Saturday morning. I was blown away by the cover and the story inside. For years I read the exploits of DC and Marvel's heroes, but here was something new. This "new" was grounded more in reality for me yet still as heroic (lot of military in my family). I loved the Joes for years. I enjoyed when another Joshua brought them back 20 yrs ago, and was happy when the original continued.

But, last summer when I heard about the Energon Universe, I was hesitant and just stook to the original. Thankfully, some fans online in a Joes FB group convinced me to give it a try a few weeks ago and here I am. I should have had faith in Josh Williamson-the guy gave me Birthright and talked about his love of making maps in that first issue after all! I'm here now, and loving it! I just read tonight CC #1 and it was weird…and very cool. CC is a threat, and, we see the foundations being laid out for a familiar, yet new universe. Plus, I have the cover with CC out in the snow, and it takes me back to ARAH #2 with that great cover of them in the arctic environs. Finally, you said you're putting in letters pages. Awesome! Just like I prefer to read my books in the printed form, I love to hear what other fans say in the same manner. Folks, I'm loving what I'm seeing from the EU! Yo, Joes!

Jim Schlievert
Whitehouse, Ohio

Jim—thanks for trying out the EU comics and I hope you'll stick around. One of the joys of working on this issue, was when artist Andrea Milana sent us a detailed map to break down the fight choreography. He went above and beyond to show all the combatants positioning as the battle made its way around the Drednoks compound.

Thank you having faith in us! And for being a BIRTHRIGHT reader! I also love that cover! You nailed exactly what we were thinking. "Familiar yet new." It's important to me that readers like you dig what we are doing as we also win over people who have never read any of these characters before. Keep writing to us!

Duke #1 and Cobra commander #1 was the first GI Joe comics I ever read. I've enjoyed both and have been hooked with transformers as well. All three series are crossing over and I have to say I think it's done a great job of working together so far. I'm wondering how long these two series are planned to last? I assume duke and CC are being used to set up the new GI Joe universe and eventually we will get a new Joe series? Maybe we will get a big crossover event with all the energon universe books? I'm hyped for the ride so far

and hopefully Josh Williamson will be writing for a while because not only does he seem to be a big GI Joe fan but has had ideas for stories since he was a kid. I'm interested in seeing what he has planned and like this dark take on cobra. I wish you well and can't wait for the next issues.

A new Energon Universe fan,
Ryan Williams

Ryan, both DUKE and COBRA COMMANDER are five issue miniseries. The good news is that we recently announced two more G.I. Joe minis-SCARLETT by Kelly Thompson & Marco Ferrari and DESTRO by Dan Watters & Andrei Bressan. Both minis will continue to build out the next stages of G.I. Joe and Cobra while introducing new characters and corners of the EU… with some familiar faces showing up, as well. After that? More news sooner than later…

Stick with us! You'll be happy with how this universe we're building comes together! I love writing these characters and have lots and lots of ideas for them.

Creators,

I was born in '75 so that explains part of the reason I'm ALL IN!! I've been disappointed in Marvel/DC offerings lately so I've been buying zines and obscure independent titles I've never heard of in search of what comic books used to be. Well, finally you folks come along and take the two favorite toys, cartoons comic books of my youth and gave them a swift kick in the @$$!!! This isn't the afternoon GI Joe/ Transformers cartoons in comic book form. Cobra Commander is still bent on world domination, but he's not a bumbling leader who is a coward at the core anymore. He is cold, calculating and FINALLY scary!! From this first issue, it feels like Golobulus should watch his back by the end of this thing...which I hope is a long way off!! Great first issue, Cobra Commander comes in with a bang, literally, and the grin on Megatron.....can't wait to read the next issues of Cobra Commander, Transformers and Duke!!!

Lifelong Transformers, GI Joe and comic book fan,

Jeff "Yoooooo Joe" Luck

Thanks, Jeff! If you haven't heard already, be sure to check out the ENERGON UNIVERSE 2024 SPECIAL for Free Comic Book Day—May 4th—for more on Megatron and some of the other folks you mentioned. I have a copy sitting on my desk, and it has art from Ryan Ottley, Lorenzo De Felici, and Jason Howard… and after reading it, EVERY FAN will be as excited as you are.

Hell yeah! Love to read this. Cobra Commander should be scary. He should be a threat. I'm glad you're excited with what we're doing!

If you're looking for more Destro, check out DUKE #5 in a couple weeks before coming back for the conclusion of this miniseries! I swear—I can't say anything more than that without spoiling things!

-Sean

If you're reading just one of the Energon Universe books, you'll get a full story. But yeah, if you check out all of them, you will get the big picture. And you can see with the way this issue ends, that a lot of crazy and fun connections are coming together!

-Josh

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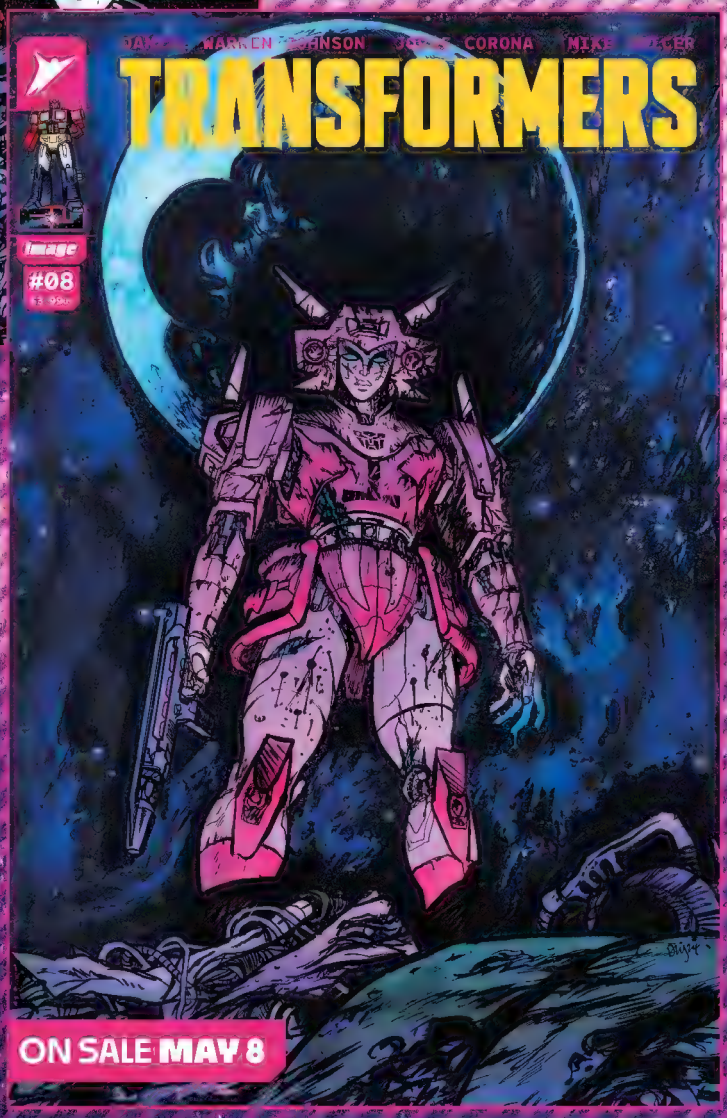
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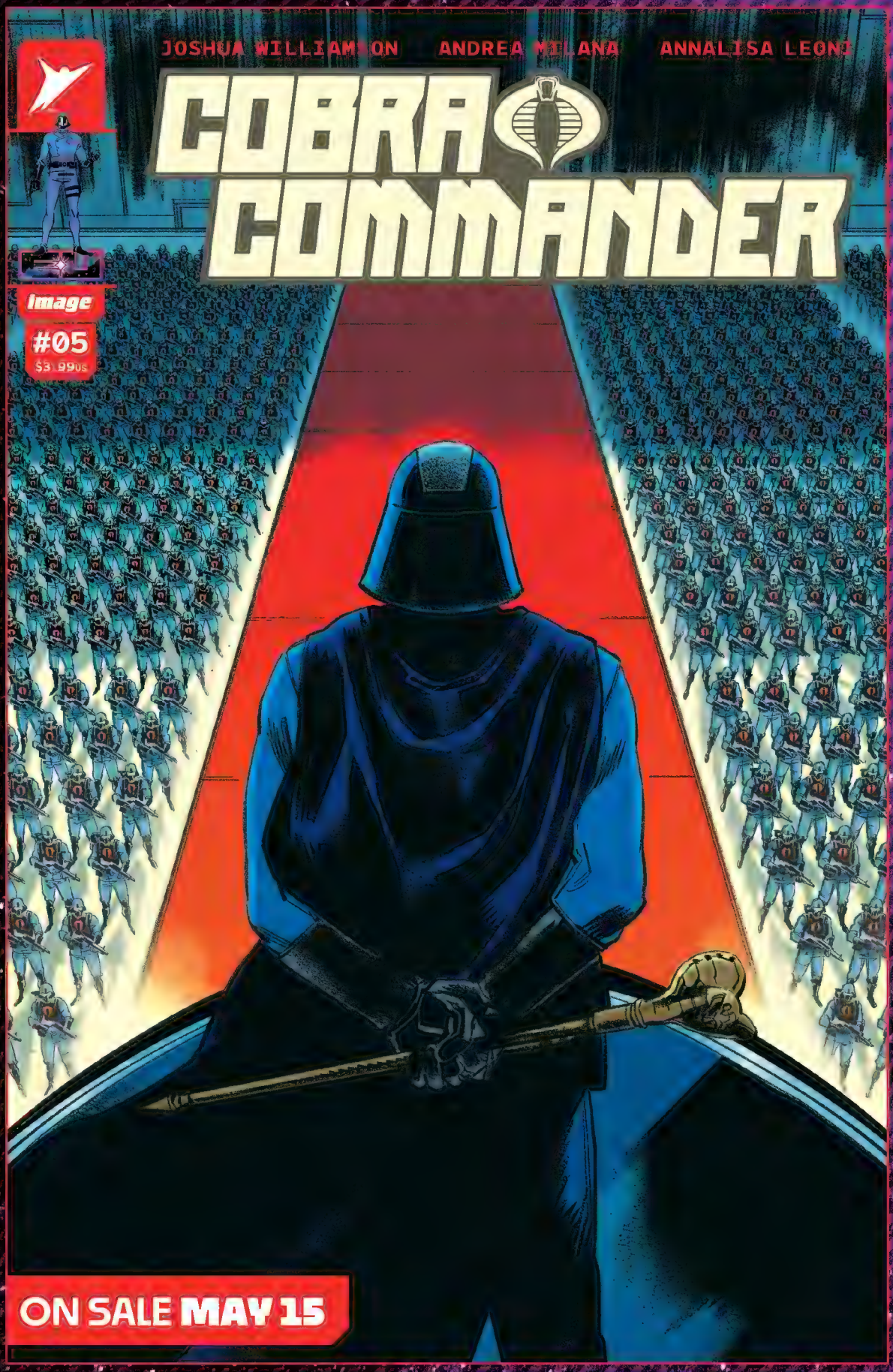
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